

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

SNOWPLAY: Every year there are serious injuries. Don't slide or ski on or into plowed roads, trees, or rocks. Sleds have better steering and handholds than other devices. Please be safe and considerate.

SAFE WINTER TRAVEL:

Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen to avoid snowglare. Watch out on roads for people on sleds, skis, cars, bikes, snowmobiles, and on foot.

POISON OAK: This common shrub grows in the foothills up to 5000 feet elevation. Red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, in spring its shiny green leaves grow in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.



TICKS: Common in foothill grasses; check yourself after a walk.

Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a ranger's and/or doctor's advice.



DROWNING: is the #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Watch for ice and snowplows. 24-hour recording: 1-559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS

The driver's vision gets blocked when snow slides onto the windshield when going downhill.

WINTERIZE YOUR CAR

Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, & chains before your trip.

FINDING GASOLINE

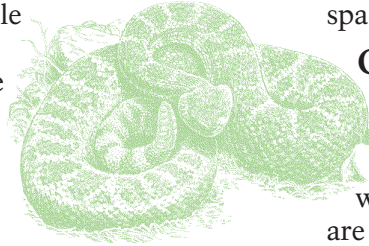
No gas stations within park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction or at Hume Lake Christian Camp (1-559-335-2000): 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: call 565-4070 (24 hours).

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

RATTLESNAKES: Watch where you put your hands and feet! Common in the foothills, rattlesnakes are protected here. Most bites result from teasing or handling them. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



COUGARS roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

GIARDIA IN WATER: This protozoan in lakes and streams can cause intestinal distress. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria or Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on L, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows you down, but it will save your brakes.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum length limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. If you are towing a car, camp in the foothills & use the car to explore.

STAY ON PAVEMENT

Park & travel on pavement only.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails),

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

CARBON MONOXIDE:

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION:

See air-quality index forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state and federal standards and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is unusual, but avoid mosquito bites.

LIGHTNING: If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

OPERATION NO-GROW

- Prevent illegal marijuana growing.
 - Protect visitor & employee safety.
 - Preserve your natural resources.
- Keep your parks safe and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

single file with traffic, and wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES

Generals Highway (main park road) closes for plowing between Wuk-sachi & Grant Grove during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may be brief or last for weeks.

IN KINGS CANYON –

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove: Closed below Hume Lake turnout.

- Panoramic Point Road: Opens late spring.

- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Opens mid-May, weather permitting.

- Middle Fork Road: Gated at Hospital Rock when wet.

- Mineral King Road: Opens 5/26.

- Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road: Opens late spring.

- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

- Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Not plowed.

Rules of the road

TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

See details on page 8.

EXPECT ICY ROADS

Slow down. Don't turn, speed up, or stop suddenly; you will lose traction. Allow six seconds of stopping distance between cars.

ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS

Make sure they fit your tires. Obey "Chains Required" signs. Buy or rent chains in shops outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; they show M / S, M+S (mud+snow) or a snowflake on the side of the tire. Be sure to check!

SNOWPLOWS RULE

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but don't stop. Proceed cautiously, watching for signals from the plow operator.